

Presentation of Medal to DCI, by DDCI, 6 October 1983

*McMahon Speech
file*

It seems that in the past few years, DCI's or their Deputies, have talked here maybe 30 or 35 times and I have never seen an occasion when there has been so much speculation over what is today all about. It did prove, Bill, that we have a very poor intelligence organization. It started off that you were leaving, then I was leaving, then both of us were leaving and I am pleased to say that it is really [] who is leaving.

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Director Casey, Mrs. Casey, we are delighted for this occasion today. I sort of looked around to see what theme I might build today's occasion on and for those of you who are current events buffs who realize that this week is National Pasta Week, and while that might be a good theme for the Vice President of Shakey's, it doesn't hang together for the DDCI to be talking about pasta. I asked [] if he knew anything about what was good about October 6th and he said, sure enough. He said back in October 6th, 1778, General George Washington wrote a letter to a gentleman by the name of Lord Sterling. Now that is a real name and not an after shave lotion, and he told the Lord about intelligence and something near and dear to our heart and he urged Lord Sterling to use all assets available - even spies - to try and garner information about the British that would be useful for General Washington's decisions. He concluded his letter by saying, every minutiae should have a place in our collection. John Stein has taken that to heart and the DDO has been collecting minutiae ever since.

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A few days ago, Jim Taylor and I were reflecting upon the state of the Agency. We do that every now and then. As the Inspector General,

he has a unique insight into how this place ticks and we soon concluded that we are in not only pretty good shape, but superb shape. The more we began to cultivate that idea, the more we realized that there was one principle theme that flowed through that and that theme was Bill Casey. So we thought that it would be appropriate for this Agency somehow to express it's appreciation to the individual that's made all that possible, namely our Director, Bill Casey. Now Bill, as you well know, it's very difficult for subordinates to do anything for superiors. There's laws against that. Those of us who have been under the pay cap for fifteen years and lived the austerity of government service also realize that the only real favor you could do for us would be to fire us so we could go out and make some money. But if you look at what has happened since the 28th of January 1981 when Bill Casey came on board, it's rather remarkable. Now granted, Bill, you face an audience that's quite unique; you have faced many people, many distinguished groups in your life, but probably nowhere have you faced people who are universally so competent and so dedicated as the folks before you. These are the people that we could spare - the real workers are at their desks. But if you look at the fiscal years that have accumulated since Bill Casey's reign and see just what has happened physically within the Agency, you have to be very proud to have served in that and experienced that. We have about [] people than we did before he came; our budget is close to 80 per cent greater and we started off in a capitalization and investment process so that the Agency will remain healthy in the out years long after we are all gone. [] []

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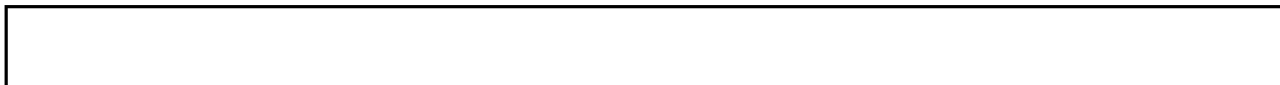
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coure, we well appreciate what has happened in the DDI with the quality of intelligence that we are able to put forth to our policymakers - quality that is quite unique and never before experienced. And the best part of it is, it's being used. It's a delight to sit in the highest councils of our government with Bill Casey and watch the President, the Vice President, the Secretary of State and Defense pick his brain and out regurgitated comes the fruits of your labors and it's pretty nice to know that CIA is very much a part of those decisions that are taking place in this Capital. You have before you an

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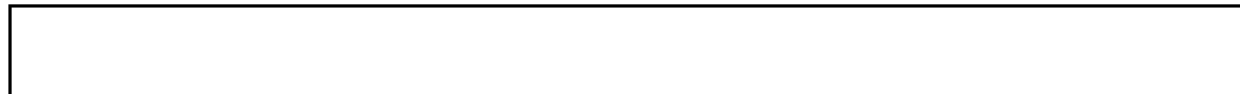


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Nowhere before has CIA

enjoyed the prestige and leverage that that can bring. More

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all of which is integrated into that final product which is laid before the President.

So, Bill Casey, we are all very pleased to have shared this wonderful time with you. As Bob Magee said, "it gives the troops some

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way of expressing their thanks to you." Today we want to award you the Agency's highest award, the Distinguished Intelligence Medal. Now we have done that with a few Directors in the past, usually on their way out. We are not trying to give you a hint, but it is some visible way for us to say thank you for what you have done - not only for this Agency but for the United States at large.

I would like now if you would stand with me while [] reads the citation.

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25X1 [] "William J. Casey is hereby awarded the Distinguished Intelligence Medal in recognition of his outstanding leadership of the Central Intelligence Agency since January 1981. Under his guidance and direction, the Agency has been strengthened and its health restored. His unique insight into the needs of our policymakers has brought imagination to our operations and relevance to our analyses. His experience and deep appreciation of world affairs add immeasurably to the creditability of our product and fulfillment of our mission. Mr. Casey's performance is in the highest tradition of federal service."

Mr. Casey: "This is my first experience on the receiving end. John is so good on the awarding end that I think he can present all the medals from now on, John. I was afraid that I would have to make it clear that I am not leaving, but John took care of that and Bob I think you ought to hang around awhile too. I really am very touched in your giving me this recognition before my work is finished. I really get ample reward every day in the satisfaction of working with you and getting things done together, things which our country needs. I like

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to think that the resources in the budget and the other things that John mentioned that have come our way are important but not as important, and perhaps not as meaningful, as the initiatives we have taken to get and the things we have accomplished, the things we have done, the uncovered ground that we have managed to move into, with whatever the resources that are available. And I am so proud of the dedication and the spirit and the quality of the people and what they are able to achieve here and so grateful for the warmth and the vigor of the support that you have given me and to what we are all trying to accomplish together. I have been involved in a great many endeavors and many fine organizations, both in government and in the private sector, but I count this by far the richest experience of all and for that I thank all of you from the bottom of my heart."